GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1846
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015
BIRD ANIMAL STRIKE INCIDENTS
Yellaiah Shri Nandi

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of bird/animal strike incidents in and around airports of the country has increased during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the number of bird/animal strike incidents reported at various airports of the country separately during the period along with the reasons therefor, airport-wise;

(c) whether these incidents have caused huge losses to the Government/airlines during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken or being taken by the Government to prevent bird/animal strike incidents?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) and (b) As per data available with Directorate General of Civil Aviation, there was an increasing trend in the number of wildlife strike incidents in the year 2013 as compared to year 2012. However, there has been a decreasing trend in the number of wildlife strike incidents in the year 2014 as compared to year 2013. The details of wildlife/bird strike incidents reported at various airports of the country during the last three years and current year (up to 28th February, 2015) are annexed.

The salient reasons for wildlife strike incidents are as follows:

(i) Aerodrome fence without proper foundation which allows animals to create trenches, holes underneath the fence or damage the fence in order to gain access to the aerodrome's property thereby easily migrating from one side of the fence to the other.

(ii) Non standard height of the boundary wall/ breaches in the boundary wall which permits the entry of animals.

(iii) Open areas between the runways and taxiways consisting of tall grass which act as a good camouflage for the wildlife making it difficult to be observed and track these animals especially at night.

(iv) Slums/habitation in the vicinity of the airport.

(v) Poor garbage management inside and outside the airport which attracts birds and animals to the site.

(vi) No dedicated personnel for looking after wildlife management at the airports.

(vii) Insufficient wildlife scaring mechanism.

(viii) Drains within the airport premises wherein the entry points are not properly blocked with the iron grills.

(c) to (d) These bird/wildlife strike incidents have not caused any losses to the government. However, as per the record available with DGCA for last three years, the airlines have incurred loss of Rs. 5,01,725,124.

Following major steps have been taken by DGCA to ensure safety of aircraft from birds and wildlife:

(i) Apprised administration of all the State Governments through communication to the Chief Secretaries of the States on importance of the compliance of Rule 91 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(ii) DGCA constituted teams to carry out the aerodrome inspection of 18 critical airports for prevention of wildlife hazard.

(iii) A high power National Bird Coordination Committee has been set up by Government of India.

(iv) Airfield Environment Management Committee has been constituted at every airport where scheduled flights operate.